

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DRTELLEEN:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

NEA:ADUBS

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NEA/RA:COLONEL HOBBS

DOD/ISA:COL. LEISER

PM/SAS:DKEENE

AID/ASIA:JCOLES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 031468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NP

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES TO NEPAL

REF: QUANTON LETTER OF 12/23/75

1. REFERENCED LETTER DESCRIBES POSSIBLE NEPALESE ARMY INTEREST IN ACQUIRING COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, TRUCKS AND OTHER VEHICLES, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, HIGH ALTITUDE CLOTHING, OPTICS AND COMPASS REPAIR FACILITIES, AND A 500 BED MILITARY HOSPITAL. AS NOTED REF LETTER, MOST OF THESE ITEMS WOULD NOT REQUIRE LICENSE, AND NEPALESE WOULD OF COURSE BE FREE TO PURCHASE THEM COMMERCIALY. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE RNA PURSUE WITH EMBASSY THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES, WE WOULD PREFER TO MAINTAIN OUR CONFIDENTIAL
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EXISTING POLICY OF CONSIDERING REQUESTS FOR LICENSING OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

2. IF, AS SEEMS LIKELY, GON INTEREST SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD GRANTS OR CONCESSIONARY TERMS OF SOME KIND, THEY SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THAT THIS IS NOT IN THE CARDS. WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN BECOMING IDENTIFIED AS A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY SUPPLIER TO NEPAL, AND IN ANY CASE, NO LONGER HAVE THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE KIND OF TERMS THE NEPALESE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN.

3. GRANT AID OF THE TYPE SUPPLIED IN 1967-68 IS CLEARLY OUT. IN ADDITION, FMS CREDITS ARE UNDER FIRE BY CONGRESS, AND WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN ADDING NEPAL TO THAT CATEGORY. WHILE FMS SALES WOULD BE POSSIBLE, SYSTEM IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ATTRACTIVE TO NEPALESE FOR ITEMS THEY ARE SEEKING.

4. AS FOR ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING A MILITARY HOSPITAL, THERE IS NO WAY TO USE U.S.-OWNED RUPEES. THEY WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM AID, WHICH IS PRECLUDED FROM FUNDING ANYTHING MILITARY.

5. THUS WE WOULD HOPE NEPALESE ARE NOT THINKING IN TERMS OF A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, BUT IF THEY SHOULD GIVE INDICATIONS OF DOING SO, THEY SHOULD BE QUIETLY BUT FIRMLY STEERED TOWARD COMMERCIAL SALES AND TOLD THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIDER LICENSING REQUESTS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. INGERSOLL

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